

March 21, 2011

Issued at 4:15 p.m.

Travel Alert issued statewide beginning tonight and continuing through Wednesday

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) has issued a **Travel Alert** statewide beginning tonight and continuing through Wednesday. Motorists are advised that a forecasted storm with near blizzard conditions will move into the state tonight from the west and proceed east across the state on Tuesday and Wednesday. The storm is predicted to bring rain and freezing rain in areas of western North Dakota tonight, followed by wet and heavy snow in northern and eastern North Dakota. The heaviest snow accumulations are forecasted to be in the northern and eastern portion of the state, with lesser accumulations in south central North Dakota. Areas in the southern portion of the state may experience freezing rain.

The National Weather Service is predicting this as a major winter storm which may create icy road conditions, heavy snow drifts, and reduced visibility making travel hazardous. Motorists are encouraged to monitor the weather and road conditions prior to traveling.

All travelers are encouraged to wear seat belts and reduce traffic speeds as weather conditions occur and use caution while traveling. For road information, call 511 from any type of phone or go to the website: www.dot.nd.gov.

Please be advised that road condition information on 511 and the travel map is updated daily from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. CST. The road report is based upon the information available to the NDDOT at the time of preparation and is provided solely as a public service. Conditions may vary from those reported.

NDDOT releases information to inform the public about travel conditions throughout the state. The three categories are as follows:

1. **Travel Alerts** are issued to alert motorists that areas of challenging winter driving conditions may be encountered on roadways. Conditions are such that motorists can still travel; however, they should be aware that rapidly changing conditions may result in travel delays due to reduced speeds and visibility.
2. **No Travel Advisories** are issued when conditions warrant no travel but not a road closure. No Travel Advisories have the potential to change to a Road Closure if conditions deteriorate. No Travel Advisories are issued for public safety to encourage motorists not to venture out onto the roads. Motorists are urged to take No Travel Advisories seriously. Conditions change often during a storm event and motorists may become stranded if they are caught between destinations.
3. **Roads are closed** when conditions create a life-threatening danger to motorists. The roadway is impassable and it is against the law to drive past a road closure device on a closed road. Motorists should obey road closures, even when a sign or a gate is not present.

If you become stranded, motorists should stay with their vehicle and call 911 for emergency assistance.

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